

These are some of the things we have done, but we should have done much more. It is well that you should know all about the Brethren church. Besides these things we have tried to observe all the commandments of Jesus. You want to prepare yourselves for large work; the future success of our church will depend on our boys and girls.

The Little Heads in the Pew

In the morn of the holy Sabbath,
I like in the church to see
The dear little children clustered
Worshipping there with me.
I am sure that the gentle pastor,
Whose words are like summer dew,
Is cheered as he gazes over
The dear little heads in the pew.
Faces earnest and thoughtful,
Innocent, grave and sweet,
They look in the congregation
Like lilies among the wheat,
And I think that the tender Master,
Whose mercies are ever new,
Has a special benediction
For the dear little heads in the pew.

—Selected.

The Best Way

Selected

Jack and Nellie help to shell peas and beans. One day Nellie said:

"How nicely God puts the peas in the pods!"

"Yes," said her mother, "God keeps things in order. Each bit of grass and each leaf has its place. I wish you would learn to do the same."

"What do you mean, mother?" asked Jack.

"How many different places do you have for your hat?" said mother. "One time it is on the porch, and another time on the fence, and another time on the kitchen table."

"That's so," said Jack, looking ashamed. "I never know where to find my things, but I'll try to do better, mother."

Little Beth

Selected

This name is just suited to the sweet young girl who bears it.

She is slight and delicate looking but has a warm, true heart. She works diligently, without a single word of complaint, from morning until evening in an office.

Beth had an invalid sister who is not always as pleasant as she might be; but when she complains or makes a peevish remark, sunny, bonnie, sweet-tempered Beth is always ready with a cheery smile and a word of comfort.

No one ever heard her speak sharply or crossly to any one. She is surely trying to obey the Saviour's command, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Little Beth is indeed a follower of Him who went about doing good, and at the last she will hear him say, oh! so lovingly and tenderly, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

How many children will try to do like little Beth? Keep back the cross word; cultivate smiles; do little kindnesses; scatter

happiness wherever you go. Particularly if there be some sick one in the family let your kind, gentle acts be given to the invalid.

Our Young People

THINGS MY DENOMINATION HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Eph. 5: 25-27; Ps. 87: 1-7

Topic May 8.

There is such a thing as being over zealous for one's denomination or doctrinal views and of being over-proud of the successes achieved by one's church, but in these days of co-operation among Christian workers there is also danger of *losing* loyalty to one's own church through association with others. The soldier most loyal to the general army is also most loyal to his own regiment and company. The Christianity that will dispense with the commandments in order to have a common ground for unity is not safe, because it is only another step to the position some take even now, that Christianity is only one of the world religions, and therefore we ought to grant to the Buddhists and Mohammedans and Shintos and Parsees and Hindus and all the rest, the same hopes for the future that we cherish as Christians.

If an organization is not fulfilling a useful mission it has no right to exist. If the Brethren church has no special place to fill we had better not struggle to build up her institutions, but if she has and is filling it we ought to follow her record with eager joy. The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, nor is the evangelization of the world dependent upon the rich and influential and popular and mighty in number. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord," and an essential condition to the blessing of the Spirit is *obedience*. Acts 5: 32.

The Brethren church cannot say "I am rich and increased in goods," but she can point to a very gratifying progress in every good direction during her short history, but our chief progress (except in numbers) has been during the last five years. I reckon progress in spirituality and consequent zeal in every good work as more important than increase in numbers and wealth.

The work and progress of the church will be most apparent if we consider it systematically. Items of progress are grouped below under ten heads. The reader will doubtless be able to enlarge upon each one.

1. *What the Brethren Church has accomplished in the way of better organization.*

As with the early church and with every denomination organization has been with us a matter of growth. The early church furnishes a model for organization which we have been faithfully following, but it takes time to get the full machinery of it into working order. Fifteen years ago the church was in a very disorganized condition. Now there is the centralizing force of the General conference with its fostering care of all the various branches of church work.

The literature of the church is looked after by an able Publication Board. The missionary interests, home and foreign are looked after by a representative Mission Board. Ashland University is getting into daylight. The S. S. work is well organized. The young people's societies have general officers and regular conventions. The S. S. C. E. is similarly organized. The ministers, too, have their national association. All these general organizations have similar district organizations.

2. The growth of the Brethren church.
3. The development of our literature.
4. Our educational work.
5. Missions—home and foreign.
6. The growth of our S. S. work.
7. The growth of our young people's work.
8. The growth of the S. S. C. E.
9. Our progress in general—organizations other

than those named, giving co-operation with other Christian organizations, etc.

10. Our progress spiritually.

To discuss these topics would require an article for each one. The leader can assign them to different members for three-minute talks to be followed by general discussion. Let the meeting be enthusiastic, ringing with loyalty to "Christ and the church."

C. F. YODER.

What We Have Done

We sometimes feel discouraged because as a church we have not made as rapid progress as we might have made. Our beloved Zion has not extended her borders as she might have done, and our progress has not been in proportion to our means, opportunities and abilities. Yet when one reads Brother Yoder's notes it will be found that notwithstanding all our hindrances, our opposition, our trials, both from within and without, we have made commendable progress. Indeed it seems to us that we have just reached that point when we are ready to move forward and share in the grand triumphs of truth. The next five years should be far more fruitful in actual results than the last fifteen years have been. Let the young people make a careful study of the notes presented above by Brother Yoder. They should learn wherein our weakness lies, and wherein our strength. Then let there be a strengthening of the weak points. With the years of experience behind us we ought to be able to do as much in one year as we did formerly in three years. We are hopeful that the study of this topic will inspire our young people everywhere to nobler efforts and higher attainments and greater accomplishments as an organization.

Topic Thoughts

The Brethren church fills a unique place in the world, a place not filled by any other organization in existence. There is therefore a reason why we should exist as an organization.

If there is a special work for the Brethren church, then there is also a special work for each member of the Brethren church. Let him find out what that work is then be about doing it.

One characteristic feature of the Brethren church is that she exalts the Word. It is one of our principles, if not the great principle that the gospel is our only rule of faith and practice. The Word is exalted far above all the teachings of all men. With us the Word of God is supreme, from it there is no appeal, to it we go for the final and irreversible decision.

The Christian Life

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PROPHETS—ISAIAH NO. 5

1. *Prophecies and Quotations In Other Epistles.*

1. Destruction of the wisdom of the worldly wise. Is. 29: 14; I Cor. 1: 19.

2. Who are capable of discerning spiritual things. Is. 40: 13. I Cor. 2: 16.